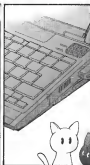




NEON
GENESIS
EVANGELION

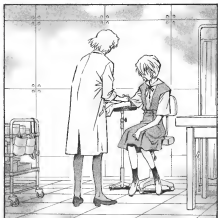
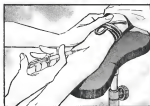
STAGE 56:
OF JEALOUSY

























It's been so long since we all sat down for dinner, but it's awkward tonight....



JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE.

HELLO? UH... YES?

...I don't blame anyone



IT'S FOR YOU.

FROM OVERSEAS. I THINK SHE SAID SHE'S YOUR MOM...?



Golden Tag Muster.

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?



OH.

I'M SO SORRY... I'VE MADE THE INVINCIBLE SHINJI PERFORM SUCH A MENIAL TASK.



Du selbst
nicht
dafür sorgen.

It must be
her step-
mother.



Why...

Her real
name was...

...did
you
have to
die?



Danke, sehr gut.

Und Ihnen?



No.

And
yet...

...I thought I saw
her there, inside
the EVA.



... She
died, just
like mine.



She
was
there.

I
did see
her.



Auf
Wiedersehen.



YOU
WERE
SMILING
INTO THE
PHONE
JUST A
SECOND
AGO...

HUH?
WH-WHY
ARE YOU
BEING LIKE
THAT?

WHAT
ARE YOU
LOOKING
AT?!



I MEAN, SHE
DID RAISE
ME, SO I
GUESS IT'S
MY DUTY...



...IT'S NOT
LIKE I HATE
HER OR
ANYTHING...

AND...



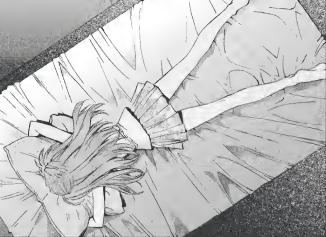
HMPH.

YOU THINK
I WANTED
TO BE?

IT'S
JUST AN
ACT.

SHE'S
NOT MY
REAL
MOM.





TO BE CONTINUED IN EVANGELION VOLUME NINE

YOSHIYUKI SADAMOTO



They say that a story's hero will serve as a mirror by which you may always see the artist. And I'm not saying it isn't true.

It's just, you know, sometimes it's more like a funhouse mirror. Here's what I remember of my mother when I was young.



I wanted this little plastic toy—it cost 100 yen. I stole some change from her purse. She found out. She dragged me to this half-built house in our neighborhood, and, like the outlaws of yesteryear, lashed her son to one of the foundation posts for all to see. Yes, how well I recall that long day spent sobbing—and how the construction workers laughed...and laughed...

A mother's love is truly unconditional. Hey...thanks, Mom! Look at how I grew to be an upright human being!

SECRETS OF EVANGELION

11 : EVANGELION AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

THERE IS NO AGREEMENT

One among the many unusual aspects of Gainax's *Neon Genesis Evangelion* is its assigning of dual and differing meanings to the same element, one in Japanese and one in English. This is seen in the TV anime series where each episode has a separate title in each language, in the name of the series itself, and in the name given to NERV's "adversaries."

It would seem unlikely that these differences reflect errors in translation, as during the production of *Evangelion*, Gainax had on its staff a highly competent translator and interpreter, Michael House, who is credited in *Evangelion*'s production and is known to have checked certain references on behalf of the studio. Rather, the director of *Evangelion*, Hideaki Anno, has been understood to state that the differences are deliberate, and in part are meant to signify the concept of dual meaning within the same term or object.

Gainax's Japanese title of the series is *Shin Seiki Evangelion*, written in Japanese as 新世紀エヴァンゲリオン. Gainax's English title is *Neon Genesis Evangelion*. However, these titles differ in meaning in the second word; 世紀, *seiki*, means "century," the word the Japanese use to translate the Western word "Genesis" is the related but different *soseiki*, written as 創世記. Note that *seiki*, spelled with different characters, can also mean "animation," "spirit," or "vitality," suggesting that passionate nature of the series itself.

SECRETS OF EVANGELION

12: EVANGELION AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 109

BEHOLD THE ANGELS
OF GOD DESCENDING

The fact that NERV is fighting "Angels" might seem surprising, in as much that the organization sees itself following what it interprets as the divine order of creation; their motto, from Robert Browning's *Pippa Passes*, is "God's in his heaven/All's right with the world" (an interesting phrasing, as it also suggests a separation of God from the world—leaving its affairs to the will of men—as proper). The motto is in the sigil of NERV, which is in the form of the organization's name emerging from a fig leaf half cut away, in Genesis 3:6–7, after they eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the very first thing Adam and Eve do is cover their nakedness with fig leaves.

Much has of course been said of *Evangelion*'s use of the Dead Sea Scrolls as a motif. A priceless collection of ancient religious texts dating from c. 250 B.C. to c. 105 A.D., the Scrolls (first discovered in 1947) are known to contain, in addition to "apocryphal" and "pseudo-epigraphical" writings (books accepted as holy scripture by some Judeo-Christian groups but not others), every book in the Old Testament of the Bible except for Esther.

However, it should be noted here that there are at least four specific quotes from the Old and New Testament used for *Evangelion*—not within the TV anime series, but in a.) the liner-note booklets for the CD soundtracks *Neon Genesis Evangelion I*, *II*, and *III* (which represent some of the earliest official documentation for *Eva*, being actually issued in 1995–96 during the original on-air run of the TV series) and b.) the book *Neon Genesis Evangelion Photo File 02 "ADAM" Soldier* at the 2015 A.D., which details the Angels and male characters of the story, published by Kadokawa in 1996.

"Neon Genesis Evangelion" is itself an English-language romanization (that is, a spelling-out in our alphabet of something from a language using a different way of writing—so "Shin Seiki Evangelion" is a romanization of 新世紀エヴァンゲリオン of *shin seiki yōmeion ewangērio*, the Greek words for "new," "genesis," and "gospel.")

The portion of the Bible that was written by Jewish authors, the Old Testament, begins with the Book of Genesis; that portion written by Christian authors, the New Testament, begins with the Gospels. "Neon Genesis Evangelion" thus suggests a theme or premise of bearing a new vision of these scriptures.

The opening song of *Evangelion*, 残酷な天使のテーマ, "Zankoku na tenshi no tema," in fact means "The cruel angel's theme," here using the word the Japanese use to translate the English word "angel," 天使, pronounced *tenshi*.

However, *Evangelion* does not use *tenshi* to refer to the "Angels" attacking NERV throughout the story, but calls them by the word *shito*, written 使徒, which means "apostle"—in the sense of one of the early followers of Christianity who spread its teachings, from the Greek, Ἀπόστολος, *apóstolos*, "one who is sent out."

The idea of referring to these same entities by one Japanese word with a certain meaning and another English word with a different meaning is established at the very beginning, where Gainsax's Japanese title for the episode is "Shito Shūrai," meaning "Apostle Approach"—approach in this sense of something ominous and destructive coming on. The English title of the episode is "Angel Attack."

—Carl Gustav Horn

The quotes in *Neon Genesis Evangelion I* and *II* both make reference to the Garden of Eden and





SECRETS OF EVANGELION

Jacob's character: "a dissimular, a machiavellian, a strategist rather than a fighter, a politician, an operator, as well as a dreamer and visionary." It was Jacob who had the dream for which the film Jacob's Ladder was named, in Genesis 28:12: "And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it."

It was also this same Jacob who, in what Johnson calls "perhaps the most mysterious and obscure passage in the entire Bible," fights hand-to-hand with an angel—or God himself—in Genesis 32:24–32, and wins: "...And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed: ..."

This is the first time the word "Israel" appears in the Bible. Johnson notes: "The term 'Israel' may mean he who fights Gods, he who fights for God, he whom God fights, he whom God rules, the upright one of God, or God is upright. There is no agreement. Nor has anyone yet provided a satisfactory account of what the incident means..."

—Carl Gustav Hone

its two divine trees, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil from which humankind ate, and the Tree of Life. AGE II's quote is from Genesis 2:8–9: "And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food."

AGE II's quote is Genesis 3:11–12: "Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat? The man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." It is perhaps of interest that the three top scientists involved with the development of NERV and its technology are all women. Drs. Ritsuko Akagi, her mother Neoko Akagi, and Yui Ikari—all three of whom also had knowledge of NERV's director, Gendo Ikari.

Gendo's second-in-command, Professor Kozo Fuyutsuki, stated in volume 8 of the series that it was commonly believed that Gendo approached Yui Ikari for marriage because of her knowledge and connections to SEELE, the secret society wishing to put into use the occult knowledge it alone possessed from the Dead Sea Scrolls. When Gendo, who was born Gendo Ikubangai, married Yui Ikari, he took her family name and became Gendo Ikari, a practice that sometimes occurs in Japan when a family without heirs gives a daughter in marriage—the son-in-law now becoming the heir. SEELE entrusted Gendo Ikari with the execution of their plan for reconciliation with the divine, funding first GEFIREN and its later successor organization NERV, both under Gendo's administration.

AGE III's quote is also from Genesis: "Come now, Let us make covenant, you and I; and let it be a witness between you and me" (Genesis 31:44). The covenant to which it refers is not the most famous one of the book, between God and Abraham (regarded by Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike as their spiritual ancestor and the beginning of man's attempt to reconnect with God through religion). It instead refers to a covenant made between Abraham's grandson Jacob, with Laban, Jacob's maternal uncle, to affirm Jacob's right to marry Laban's daughters, and for Laban not to harm him in the future.

Jacob (a name which means "deceiver" or "usurper") had waited fourteen years for the right, during which time he had borne children by the daughters and had furthermore managed to make off with Laban's wealth; Laban even accused Jacob of having stolen the sacred idols he worshipped. It was in fact Laban's daughter Rachel who had stolen them and brought them to Jacob's tent. In Paul Johnson's well-regarded 1987 work *A History of the Jews*, he comments on





SECRETS OF EVANGELION

13 : EVANGELION AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

the New Testament. Consider in this the viewpoint of the Apostle Paul, author of most of the books in the New Testament and the most important preacher of early Christianity:

In Galatians 1:8, Paul enjoins of the church, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." In 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, Paul asserts the great power that will be given to believers: "Do ye not know that the saints [i.e., humans of true faith] shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" In Colossians 2:18, Paul furthermore warns true believers not to be fooled into worshipping angels.

The New Testament quote that appears on the back cover of Neon Genesis Evangelion Photo File 02 'ADAM' Soldier at the 2015 A.D. is Acts 5:38-39. It is spoken by Gamaliel, a leader among the Pharisee religious establishment, who warned that the apostles should not be killed as blasphemers for their actions because "...if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." (Acts 5:38-39). Interestingly, whereas the Old Testament quotes in *ANGEL-WE* are all from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, 'ADAM' Soldier at the 2015 A.D.'s actual wording is from "Today's English Version" (also known as the Good News Bible)—"If what they have planned and done is of human origin, it will disappear, but if it is from God, you cannot possibly defeat them. You could find yourself fighting against God," suggesting that the staff associated with Evangelion had access to at least two different English versions of the Bible.

—Carl Gustav Horn

WE SHALL JUDGE
ANGELS

The consequences of eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil suggests the fundamental conflict between human beings and Angels, and even the prospect of a fight between them. It is to be noted that God did not forbid Adam and Eve to eat of the Tree of Life, only the Tree of Knowledge, but after they ate of that tree "...the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever... So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims [the word is actually of uncertain derivation, but is understood to refer to angelic beings] and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life" (Genesis 3:22, 24).

It has been pointed out that in Evangelion neither the Angels nor the humans opposing them in NERV seem to understand one another's nature, behavior, or composition very well; their early clashes suggest this and both "factions" make efforts to examine one another. In this interpretation, the misunderstanding comes from the fact that each has one but not the other divine aspect—the Angels, immortality (the Tree of Life), and humans, morality (the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil). In seeking a complete divine nature, then, NERV finds itself literally in hand-to-hand conflict with the Angels, who guard the Tree of Life.

The rivalry for divine nature may therefore suggest a rivalry over which faction bears the correct "message"—whether the Angels referred to as *shito* are in fact the true apostles, or men. This brings us to the fourth scriptural quote used for Evangelion, from the book Neon Genesis Evangelion Photo File 02 'ADAM' Soldier at the 2015 A.D., and the only one of the four to be from



